

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01

DRC-01 /171 W

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R 291535Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 2544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, VN

SUBJ: VISIT OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PREMIER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: BERLIN 1836

1. DRV PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS, LEFT CZECHOSLOVAKIA OCTOBER 28 AFTER SIX-DAY VISIT MUCH OF WHICH WAS SPENT TRAVELING AROUND COUNTRY.

2. MOST NOTABLE ITEM IN LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD TREAT AS GIFT THE CREDITS IT EXTENDED TO DRV IN PAST YEARS.

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COMMUNIQUE PROMISED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD "IN ACCORD-

ANCE WITH ITS ABILITIES" EXTEND FURTHER AID TO VIETNAM.
COMMUNIQUE SPOKE OF "BROADENING" ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-
TECHNICAL COOPERATION INCLUDING DESPATCH OF VIETNAMESE
WORKERS AND SPECIALISTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR TRAINING.
SEPARATELY IT REPORTED, BRIEFLY, SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENTS
ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DRV AND ON
EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND PAYMENTS IN 1974.

3. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN
DURING VISIT WHETHER CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD STEP
UP ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO DRV. BUT WHETHER OR NOT
PRESENT LEVEL IS TO BE INCREASED--OR MAINTAINED--
VIETNAMESE WERE PRESUMABLY PLEASED BY CZECHS AGREEING
TO FORGET PAST DEBT. ON OTHER HAND, WE FEEL SAFE IN
SAYING CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLIC FOUND LITTLE TO WELCOME IN
COMMUNIQUE STATEMENTS RE AID. ACCORDING TO CZECH INFORMANT,
IN AT LEAST ONE PRAGUE ENTERPRISE AFTER PARIS PEACE
ACCORDS "VOLUNTARY" EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VIET NAM
WERE DOUBLED, TO TWO PERCENT OF SALARY; LOCAL READERS OF
COMMUNIQUE MAY WELL WONDER WHAT MORE IS TO COME FROM
THEIR POCKETS.
SHERER

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